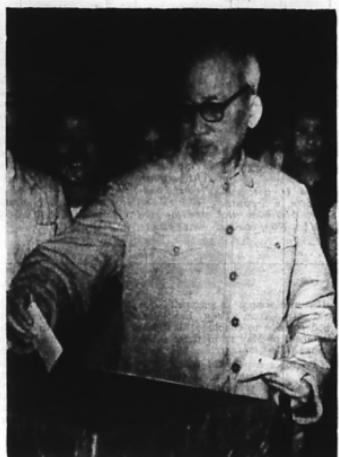


VIETNAM

COURIER

Information Weekly E.O.: 46 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi — Democratic Republic of Viet Nam



President Ho Chi Minh casting his vote at Hanoi municipal elections (April 28, 1968)

ON MAY 19, 1968

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH IS 78

FOR more than a century, in Viet Nam, the struggle for independence has become the nation's major preoccupation. The revolutionaries tried to find a solution; every citizen asked himself how to put an end to the colonial regime. For a long time, in the eyes of many, imperialism seemed invincible. With their weapons, their troops, their political and financial means, imperialism and colonialism seemed invincible. Ho Chi Minh fought back heroically against the enemy, but without a glimmer of victory at the end of their life.

It was Ho Chi Minh who showed the Vietnamese people the way to independence, who forged the instruments of struggle and gradually led the Vietnamese revolution to victory.

For more than sixty years, he has been working and fighting, unswinkingly and unswervingly, devoting his whole life to the cause of the nation and that of the revolution. He founded in succession the Party, the Vietnamese People's Army, the first Government of the D.R.V.N. Together with the Party, he

directed the victorious resistance against the French colonialists, then the radical transformation which had turned the country into the first socialist State in Southeast Asia.

His personal daily life has become a living example for all — for the fighter at the forefront of the revolution, the college professor, as well as for the head of an agricultural co-op. Not only does everyone know what policy to follow in any circumstances, he is also aware that human qualities he must acquire: courage, firmness about principles, total selflessness, absolute devotion to the masses, humility, simple life, simplicity and sense of collectivism in order to deserve the fine name of revolutionary.

At a time when the Vietnamese people are confronting in a fierce war the most fully developed imperialism of the U.S.A., President Ho Chi Minh appears as the symbol of that unshakable resistance opposed to the aggressor by the whole country and the entire world. Each of his appeals resounds deeply in all hearts for he gives concrete and clear-cut

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1968
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5th Year

RECEIVED

* A Step Forward of South Viet Nam People's Forces. JUL 2 Page 4
★ The U.S.A. Must First and Foremost Put A Complete and Unconditional End to the Bombing and All Other Acts of War Against the D.R.V.N.

Page 2

Lawyer NGUYEN HUU THO Thanks President HO CHI MINH:

"The South Viet Nam People Are Resolved To March Toward Final Victory."

In the name of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho has expressed in a reply warm thanks to President Ho Chi Minh for his message dated May 8, 1968, pressuring the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam for "having won a great military offensive and simultaneous uprisings with great efficiency and winning tremendous victories."

The reply message reads in part:

"In this extremely exhilarating and glorious hour of the struggle for national liberation, the people of the South promise to President Ho Chi Minh and their 17 million kith-and-kin compatriots of the North that so long as the American imperialists do not bring their war of aggression against South Viet Nam to an end, withdraw all American and satellite troops, and let the South Vietnamese people decide their own destiny, the people of South Viet Nam and their patriotic armed forces, united as one man, will never lose hold of their weapons and be resolved to fight to a finish. Only by so doing will they deserve President Ho Chi Minh's praise. Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. No cruel force, no reactionary power, no perfidious manoeuvre can shake the South Vietnamese people's determination to fight and win, and prevent them from marching toward final victory."

South Viet Nam

SAIGON: — Two Puppet Para Battalions Put out of Action on May 10 and 11, One Australian Battalion and One Company Wiped Out on May 13 — P.L.A.F. and People Get Control of Half the City and Hammer at the Enemy in Other Town Quarters.

TAY NINH: — U.S. Signal Central Stormed.

MEKONG DELTA: — Five Puppet Battalions and One U.S. Battalion Wiped Out or Decimated in Four Days.

SOUTHWEST OF DA NANG: — A "U.S. Special Forces" Camp Seized, Two Companies and Two Platoons Wiped Out, 16 Planes and Helicopters Downed.

North Viet Nam

First Half of May: 45 U.S. Planes Downed.

UP TO MAY 17, 1968

2,923 U.S. Aircraft Grounded.

shape to what is more or less clearly in everybody's mind, and arouses in all the noblest sentiments and deepest aspirations.

For 14 years now, the Americans have spent billions of dollars, dropped millions of tons of bombs, resorted to all kinds of psychological tricks without ever succeeding in tarnishing Uncle Ho's image in the hearts of our Southern compatriots. More splendidly than ever, his image has remained unshakable, ever renewed strength into the fighters.

A profound patriot, Ho Chi Minh was also the first Viet-

namese to show his people the road of proletarian internationalism. By all the fibres of his being, he is bound to the Vietnamese land, nation and people; but also by all the fibres of his being, he is bound to the world revolution. In the first period of his militant life he participated in the struggle of all colonial peoples, took up in moving accents the defence of African Black people, and especially supported the October Revolution.

His internationalism is not an abstract stand, and Ho Chi Minh knows how to import to his people that respect and affection for all peoples of the world— including the American people—which characterizes proletarian internationalism.

The Vietnamese people, from North to South, are deeply and proud of having Uncle Ho as their leader. They feel greatly delighted to know that he is in very good health and is steering the destiny of the nation with an unfailing hand. Walking along the path chartered by Uncle Ho, the Vietnamese people are sure to win.

A STEP FORWARD OF SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE'S FORCES

Abridged text of a military commentary by Chien Thang, published in the May 12, 1968 issue of the Quan Doi Nhan Dan (People's Army)

THE general offensive and widespread uprisings launched early in Spring this year in South Viet Nam have triggered the unceasing decline of the U.S. aggressor. Since the night of May 1, new and heavy defeats have been inflicted upon them by the revolutionary armed forces and people who have been blazing away at 150 enemy positions in 80 urban centres in South Viet Nam. The present situation in South Viet Nam therefore has the following characteristics:

I. A New Advance of South Viet Nam Revolutionary Forces and a Further Weakening of U.S. Puppet Forces

THE current concerted attacks are the continuation of the general offensive and widespread uprisings started in the first days of this year's Spring. They have developed the previous victories and are creating the premises for many others. Thanks to a timely application of freshly gained experiences, the current attacks have been successful, owing to a close combination of various fighting methods and a greater fighting efficiency.

By hitting the most important targets, these attacks have wiped out a great part of the enemy's sting in terms of men and war materials, adding to the mortal wounds already inflicted on the enemy.

A skilful combination of attacks in the towns and in the countryside has been achieved. Hammer blows have been delivered at the administration both at central and grass-roots levels, while severe punishment has been meted out to both cruel police agents and village despots, and serious destructions have been wrought on the remaining "strategic hamlets". The revolutionaries have been placed under fire both inside their camps and while in the field. The revolutionary forces, while fighting, have seized every opportunity to increase and develop their own strength, which accounts for their great successes both military and political.

The powerful step-up of the attacks and their brilliant results show that the South

Viet Nam people have raised their fighting strength and reached a new high insofar as the conduct of military operations (especially in urban centres) concerned. The Saigon - Cholon armed forces and people have succeeded in knocking down enemy aircraft and putting out of commission enemy armoured vehicles. They have also managed to wipe out whole puppet battalions and heavily trounced single American brigades in some bigger battles of the field of the enemy. This fully bears out the tremendous growth of the revolution's battle forces and the improvement in their technical equipment. The steady progress and smooth synchronization of the powerful, devastating attacks testify to incomparable strength and good organization and co-ordination of the revolutionary forces.

The most striking feature of the current attacks is the close combination of the military offensive and the people's uprising.

These two kinds of actions are linked up together and help each other to develop. It is only by fighting off the counter-attack units of the enemy, by smashing his repressive apparatus (administrative, political, psychological, police organs) can the mass uprisings be efficiently assisted. Reversely, the powerful popular upheavals in the towns help the revolutionary armed forces to wipe out the enemy, suppress their cruel agents and vouch for success in all fields.

With regard to the U.S.-aggressors, their new weakness is obvious. Despite the lessons of the Tet offensive and despite all their efforts to contain the U.S.-puppets have been unable to forestall the current attacks on their city hideouts. This supplies a new illustration of the enemy's foible. Now, it is even more evident that it is not "surprise" but impotence that has caused the enemy's failure to protect themselves.

Far from checking the revolution's onslaught the U.S.-puppets have received heavier and heavier blows, with whole puppet battalions put out of action and the puppet police machine seriously battered. This has happened despite

very early support by U.S. forces.

What is more, the commitment of U.S. forces to the towns has rendered more acute the U.S. shortage in mobile forces in the field. In a word, the confused resistance and disorganized resistance of the U.S.-puppets have made their weakness more conspicuous.

2. The Rear of the U.S.-Puppets Has Been Turned Into a Battlefield Most Dangerous for Them

AFTER their heavy setbacks at the beginning of this year's spring, the U.S.-puppets have turned their brains for a means to push the war far out of the towns. Their efforts have been epitomized in the "seven priority tasks" set by Ambassador Bunker with the "improvement of the situation in the towns" as the most important one.

This is because militarily speaking, South Viet Nam urban centres now enjoy a very clear, favourable to South Viet Nam's revolution and very detrimental to the U.S.-puppets.

The relentless revolutionary attacks in the towns in South Viet Nam have made one thing very clear: the balance of forces and the general strategic situation have undergone a great change, very favourable to South Viet Nam's revolution and very detrimental to the enemy, are

3. The Current Attacks Are Dynamiting the "Hub" of American Neo-Colonialism in South Viet Nam and Exacerbating Social Conflicts in the Towns

ESPITE the presence of over 300,000 troops of their own, the U.S. aggressors have had to seek political support in the puppet army and administration. The towns have been used as a springboard for the invasion of the countrywide, a showcase for American neo-colonialism, the seat for their repressive machine, and the immediate rear for the U.S.-puppets.

Under the repeated attacks of the revolutionary forces, the enemy control is shrinking rapidly and is no longer confined to the towns. For this reason, urban centres have become the last redoubts and footholds of the Saigon administration, the last shopwindow of U.S. neo-colonialism, and the "hub" of the U.S. neo-colonialist polity.

The current attacks, besides bringing up a new weakening of the enemy, are

(Continued page 7)



Enemy strongholds set ablaze by people's forces

VIET NAM COURIER

A map of South Viet Nam, in early 1968, shows an almost uniform red mass extending from the coast to the borders of China and Laos. On the red background, hardly a few white lines and black dots are visible. This is not quite temporary one, still exercised by the American expeditionary corps and its Saigon puppets on cities, provincial capitals, district centres, military bases, a few stretches of road...

At the Outset :
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The setting up of these liberated areas was the material basis for the birth of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (December 20, 1967).

The year 1968 saw the bankruptcy of the Staley-Plan, the aim of which was to "pacify" South Viet Nam within a period of 18 months and herd the population into camouflaged concentration camps, the "strategic hamlets". Under the leadership of the N.F.L and acting in close co-operation with the liberation armed forces, which never had been achieved, the people waged a courageous struggle to defend, and even extend, the liberated zone. In early 1968, the people's control included 76 per cent of South Viet Nam's territory and 50 per cent of her population. Liberated areas which still under enemy control were interlocked as in the days of the resistance against French colonialists. An article published in the French paper *Le Figaro* of September 19, 1963, admitted that the Viet Cong are masters of roads where they pass through. The corps was bogged down for seven and a half years; in the South, the control of the Mekong Delta, the Mau peninsula, as well as the Plain of Reeds and Zone D, an area of thick jungle growing locally known as "bamboo forest". In the Center, they are masters of the High Plateaus; in the North, the mountain regions, especially those near the Lao border, are firmly in their hands. Though still not all in one block, liberated areas which originated from areas of great strategic importance, on both the military and political planes.

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THE LIBERATED ZONE :

IMAGE OF FUTURE SOUTH VIET NAM

The Birth of the People's Revolutionary Power

THE development and consolidation of the liberated zones has been marked by the birth of a people's revolutionary power at various levels, to whose organs the people's representatives. In Mo Cay district, Ben Tre province, a veritable festival honoured the birth of revolutionary power in a village with a population of 135,000. Particularly worthy of note was the emergence of a People's Revolutionary Committee in Thus Thien-Hue, the first organ of revolutionary power at provincial level. The People's Revolutionary Committee, representative of various popular strata and is headed by Dr Le Van Hao, professor at Saigon and Huu Hao, professor at Hue. Dr Le Van Hao, also chairman of the Alliance of National Democratic Forces of Hue.

In March, the Thanh Hoa-Hue People's Revolutionary Committee met to approve the 1968 provincial budget and discuss various measures aimed at increasing agricultural production, mobilizing manpower and material resources to serve the resistance, carrying out the agrarian plan, and other important problems.

The birth of a people's revolutionary power in the liberated

2.6 tons to 3.6 tons over 200,000 hectares of ricefields. In order to cope successfully with enemy attacks and capture, the combatants, to increase output, the free peasants have engaged in the path of mutual aid and cooperation. In early 1968, in Gia Lai and Phu Yen provinces, 3,000 mutual aid and cooperative groups had been set up. In these groups, and reinvigorated by those reforms, the peasants in liberated regions have already demonstrated their resistance. The resistance of the people's own free will, they finance a budget of special appropriations for the resistance.

On the 1st of April, 1968, rice was harvested in Cai Ma and other provinces. Many families contributed twice their combatants.

The Liberated Zones on Saigon

THE offensive and general uprising of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (December 20, 1967).

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The setting up of these liberated areas was the material basis for the birth of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (December 20, 1967).

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VIET NAM AND THE WORLD AT LARGE

Cambodia Resolutely Defends Her Independence, Neutrality and Peace

Persevering and Heroic Struggle Against American Aggressive Imperialism

The long and the American imperialists have been plotting to turn Cambodia into a new-type colony and military base for aggression, linking their "anti-communist" chain in South-East Asia. The setting up of the SEATO aggressor bloc and placing of Cambodia, Laos and South Viet Nam under its "umbrella" were designed to control Cambodia and tie it up at the expense of the aggressive acts of the U.S. imperialists. But since the very beginning this scheme has not worked. At the Bandung Afro-Asian Conference in 1955, the Head of State of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk, made plain Cambodia's policy of peace and neutrality. In November 1954, the U.S. imperialists confirmed this neutrality and the will for peace of the Cambodian people and stressed that Cambodia would not commit any aggression but in case she is victim of aggression, she will fight stubbornly to safeguard her national independence and sovereignty. The Cambodian government also strongly protested against the U.S. imperialists' placing Cambodia into the area of "protection" of the SEATO bloc.

Failing to carry out their dark designs through military invasion and blackmail, the U.S. imperialists brazenly egg on their henchmen to subversive activities, assassination and riots as a means to sap Cambodia. They maintain a gang of Cambodian traitors who set up the organization *Khmer Serei* to carry out spying and sabotage. They give orders to their Saigon and Phnom Penh lackeys to violate the air space and territorial waters of Cambodia and mount provocative attacks on her borderland. American troops in South Viet Nam have many times attacked or commanded attacks against Cambodia.

Having seen the ugly and perfidious nature of the U.S. imperialists, the Cambodian people have taken drastic measures accordingly. In November 1963, the Cambodian government turned down U.S. "economic aid" and "military aid". In June 1965, it severed diplomatic relations with the U.S. The American "Peace Corps" and "Aid Missions" had to quit Cambodia. The Cambodian

Government energetically denounced before world public opinion the U.S. and its satellites' aggression.

The U.S. imperialists believed that without American "aid" Cambodia's economy would be in deep water. They wanted the Cambodian Government would again ask for help and accept U.S. conditions. But they did not reckon with the Cambodian people's patriotism. Over the last few years the Cambodian people have made great efforts in economic construction and have constantly resisted imperialist aggression. Cambodian agriculture has undergone many changes: new enterprises and dwelling houses have been built and urban centres expanded. In the cultural and educational fields, in the health service and physical training and sports, she has made tremendous progress.

The U.S. imperialists and their agents tried to cover their aggressive policy. Since 1965, after their ignominious failure in the "special war" in South Viet Nam they have harboured a deeper hatred for Cambodia. They have urged their lackeys in Thailand and South Viet Nam and the *Khmer Serei* to launch many provocations, carry out subversive activities from within and invade Cambodia by armed forces from without so as to force her to give up her policy of peace and neutrality. Encroachments on Cambodian territories by U.S. and puppet troops increased 374% in 1963 and 38% in 1966, and more recently 300 provocations were recorded in two months alone (from December 21, 1967 to February 24, 1968), in which many Cambodians were killed. More brazenly still, the U.S. imperialists have ordered their Saigon and Phnom Penh lackeys to have an outpost deep into Cambodian territory despite protests from the Cambodian Government. And to cover up their crimes and seek grounds for aggression, they launched a flagrant slandering campaign against Cambodia, trumping up such stories as Cambodia's "aggression" of South Viet Nam. Liberation troops and Sihanouk's handles "went to the Viet Cong"; they even threatened to use their right of "hot pursuit" to Cambodian territory. Many American papers have

Solidarity with Viet Nam and Laos Against the Common Enemy

In the struggle against American imperialism, their common enemy, Viet Nam and Cambodia have been unceasingly strengthening their solidarity and mutual support.

The Vietnamese people are deeply moved by the warn report given them by the Cambodian people and government. The statements of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk condemning the U.S. imperialist aggressors and wholeheartedly supporting our anti-U.S. struggle and the D.R.V.N. and South Viet Nam N.F.L. sound position have given our people a strong fillip.

On its part, the D.R.V.N. has decided to give full support to the righteous struggle of the Cambodian people and made it clear that the U.S. imperialists should be repelled enough to invade Cambodia, the Vietnamese people would be ready to meet all requirements of the King.

On the Cambodian side, the Vietnamese people have taken dramatic measures. They have given their support to the Cambodian people and made it clear that the U.S. imperialists should be repelled enough to invade Cambodia, the Vietnamese people would be ready to meet all requirements of the King.

The Viet Nam-Cambodia joint communiqué issued on

D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry Condemns U.S. Encroachments on Cambodia's Territory

On May 11, 1968, the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam issued a statement condemning the encroachments on Cambodia's territory by the U.S. imperialists.

The statement read: "At the beginning of 1968, troops of the United States and their henchmen in South Viet Nam have been relentlessly encroaching upon the territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia and have launched attacks against friendly towns, villages and killed large numbers of civilians there."

"It is clear that the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys have grossly infringed upon

the sovereignty and territory of Cambodia in disregard

of vehement protest from the Royal Government of Cambodia and from world public opinion. These criminal acts are a continuation of the U.S. ruling circle which promised to do their best to avoid aggressive acts against friendly countries as well as all incidents and accidents that may cause losses and damage to the Cambodian people."

"Such hysterical acts can in no way shake the morale of the valiant Khmer people who are resolutely struggling for the defence of their independence, neutrality and territorial integrity," the communiqué said.



800 U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED OVER LAOS

THE Laotian patriotic armed forces in Sainyabuli (Central Laos) on April 17 shot down four U.S. jets, including one South American aircraft, and downed 10 aircraft over the liberator zone, Kham San Pathet Lao (KPL) reported.

The patriotic armed forces in Sainyabuli recorded brilliant feats of arms, destroying enemy aircraft on the ground. In 3 surprise attacks on the ground in April, the patriots within less than a year, they destroyed or heavily damaged 36 U.S. aircraft, out of a total of 800 pilots, technicians and soldiers defending the airbase, and more than 100 tons of munitions.

On January 8, 1968 on the occasion of the visit to the D.R.V.N. of Prince Phouravanh, Cambodian Foreign Minister, laid stress on this long-standing solidarity between both countries. The communiqué said:

"Viet Nam and Cambodia are close neighbours; the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples live on the same Indo-Chinese peninsula; they have age-old economic and cultural relations, they have a common history and the Cambodian people would be ready to meet all requirements of the King. The Cambodian aimed at defending her independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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U.S. IMPERIALISTS HEAP UP CRIMES IN BOTH ZONES OF VIET NAM

AFTER President Johnson's speech on March 31 announcing "limited bombing" of North Viet Nam U.S. planes have been stepping up crimes in an important part of Viet Nam.

The Pentagon admits that the U.S. air force flew 3,324 sorties in May 3 as against 2,654 in March. The number between the 17th and 20th parallels. Besides, U.S. aircraft bombed a locality in Lai Chau province and the 21st parallel, 200 km. off Hanoi. On April 4, and Bach Long V.I. island, off Haiphong, on April 26.

In April, the U.S. imperialists carried out other war acts against the D.R.V.N. such as:

- reconnaissance missions over North and South of Hanoi;

In early May, U.S. aircraft continued to obstinately strike at populous areas in North

- continuous shelling of the coastal region between Ha Tinh and the demilitarized zone (180km long) by U.S. naval ships, subject to round-the-clock bombardments, dams and the reservoirs of Thanh Hoa and Nghe An provinces as well as many other populated areas in Saigon, causing big fires. Casualties and the thousands suffered heavy damage.

Most savage were the air raids on the densely populated capital as Vinh (4 times), Ha Tinh (4 times), Thanh Hoa (4 times); in dike areas, dams and rivers. Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces, on agricultural co-operatives, one breeding farm, 3 schools and 4 churches.

In early May, U.S. aircraft

continued to obstinately strike at populous areas to

bigger adverse forces with smaller ones.

In the winter 1967-Spring 1968, it won additional forces to its command and created the "Brass Wall: Resolute-To-Win" to reward those units a friendly unit in wiping out an enemy regiment in a three-pronged attack, and the "Terror-Striking" to reward those who strike a rescue party. In its first encounters with the U.S. imperialists, the Company put up a fierce resistance and resolved to defend any enemy unit to the death.

Company 7 of Binh Gia Unit was one of the first units to be awarded this title. Editor

A P.L.A.F. "RESOLUTE-TO-WIN" COMPANY

SET up on January 26, 1967, Company 7 is one of the first regular regiments of the Patriotic Armed Forces in the Plain-Bien Hoa provinces, Eastern Hoa Binh. Its fighters have scourged the region from the lush valleys to the rugged mountainous ridges, even to the hamlets and villages close to the enemy-controlled areas.

It first went into action by shattering the puppet regime administration, wiping out its chief, capturing and attacking puppet "self-defence" groups, and then, by co-ordinating its operations with friendly units, successively won one out of action whole battalions and regiments of the enemy.

With its first major battle in the Binh Gia campaign at the end of December 1967 and the beginning of January 1968, Company 7 has become the "prime mover" of the Binh Gia unit known for its courage and resiliency and its successful fighting.

Company 7 of Binh Gia unit fully deserves the "Brass Wall: Resolute-To-Win" award from the P.L.A.F. command.

names people demand that the U.S. imperialists end unconditionally their bombings and other acts of war against the D.R.V.N.

In South Viet Nam the U.S. aggressors commit even more atrocious crimes.

Since May 5, U.S. tanks, armored cars and choppers have fired bombs and rockets and released bombs on popular areas, including the Bien Hoa airbase, Tan Son Nhut airbase, on the Saigon-Bien Hoa road. The Saigon-Tan Son Nhut airbase, as well as many other populated areas in Saigon, causing big fires. Casualties and the thousands suffered heavy damage.

The same source disclosed on May 8, that in addition, B-52 giant bombers and helicopters dropped incendiary bombs on a refugee's camp inside Saigon, as well as on populous areas in the suburbs. It is easy to figure the casualties caused by these raids to about 500 inmates of the camp.

Who now sees the wind will reap the whirlwind. The American imperialists must answer for their acts.

A STEP FORWARD OF SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE'S FORCES

(Continued from page 4)

shaking the last footholds of the enemy and tilting the political balance in favour of the popular right in the last lairs of the U.S. puppets. Like fish in a dragnet pond, the Thieu regime will collapse before the U.S. to protect its lackeys even in the towns. The U.S.-puppet inner contradictions are thus aggravated.

So are the contradictions between the military and political facets of the U.S. neo-colonial and aggressive war: The present conflicts, by destroying an important part of the enemy's military strength and dangerously robbing the political mainstays of the U.S., have created a situation in which the U.S. needs to find a certain amount of military strength, cannot remove the threat of total bankruptcy to its neo-colonialist policy.

Last but not least, the contradictions between the South Vietnamese people and the U.S. puppets. The growing prestige of the N.P.L. and the recent emergence of the Viet Nam Alliance of the masses, the People's Self-Defense Forces are worsening the isolation of the ill-famed Thieu-Ky regime.

These achievements were due to the common effort of the officers and men in the Company. Most of them were members of their units' heroic anti-U.S. fighter. Possessing their efforts and bound by a deep mutual affection, all they are here on building their unit, their company, their team. They attach great importance to raising their political standards, fighting spirit and morale. Through one another make progress. Hong Thao typifies a political instructor who constantly urges his unit into its highest spirits, maintaining the offensive and the determination to wipe out the enemy.

Each in his own way, all the men of Company 7 are indeed the high sense of purpose, upholding our must emphasize manpower as possible to liberate their country. Hoang Cau, a machine-gunner, fought his way through fire and smoke, wiped out an American company and downed 2 planes. In the second operation which lasted one hour in January 1968, he personally wiped out an American company and downed 2 planes.

Company 7 of Binh Gia unit fully deserves the "Brass Wall: Resolute-To-Win" award from the P.L.A.F. command.

TO THE READER

We sincerely thank there is much work for improvement in the editing of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly value your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

Military Operations

In South Viet Nam, this P.L.A.F. continues to hammer at the enemy. Violent attacks were recorded in particular since the night of May 4.

According to reports released by *Giai Phong Press Agency*, up to May 13 the enemy had suffered losses in 111 cities, towns and urban centres and over 50 bases of various kinds; 16 battalions and scores of companies of the U.S. Australian and puppet armies were put out of action.

The enemy's command which was facing a great shortage of manpower witnessed in the last few days the loss of thousands of its best troops in all theatres of operations at a quicker tempo than in the Tet offensive. Thus in the northern provinces of South Viet Nam (Quang Tri and Thua Thien) the enemy took 1,000 casualties (most of them G.I.'s) on May 5 and 6. In Kien Giang, second largest, 1,000 U.S. Marines and "cav." were put out of action between May 5 and 9.

Hundreds of tanks, armoured cars and lorries have been destroyed by the P.L.A.F. The most striking losses were 173 lost on May 5 and 6 two armoured companies and three infantry companies. In Saigon and periphery from May 5 to 9, the P.L.A.F. and the puppet civilians killed or wounded 7,500 enemy troops, including 2,500 G.I.'s. In the Mekong Delta, the enemy lost 6 battalions between May 5 and 9.

The U.S. Command has not only suffered a reduction also in Kien Giang as at the beginning of this year. At present, besides the 6,000 U.S. Marines pinned down in the famous mountain on Highway No. 9, thousands of other U.S. paratroops and puppet soldiers, left in the lurch in another valley southwest of Hiep Linh at A So, have been No. 11 and tied down from assaulted towns and urban centres. The remnants of enemy mobile forces station-

ed in the north, made up chiefly of Marines and First Cav., are committed at Dong Ha, a peripheral sector, where since April 29, the P.L.A.F. have put out of action at least 4,000 enemy soldiers, mostly G.I.'s, in two weeks. Thus whittled down, the U.S. combat troops are more weakened than previously.

The enemy was technical means were also P.L.A.F. choice targets. In February last, among the P.L.A.F., there were about thirty airfields. Dozens of planes and helicopters were shot down in battle, while hundreds of them were destroyed on the ground: 35 helicopters on May 4, on A Loi airfield, 45km south-west of Da Nang; 16 on Bien Hoa and near Dong Du, base of U.S. Division 25, northwest of Saigon (May 5); and 25 at Tan Son Nhut the following day. In Saigon and periphery, 100 planes and choppers were downed or destroyed between May 5 and 9.

Hundreds of tanks, armoured cars and lorries have been destroyed by the P.L.A.F. The most striking losses were 173 lost on May 5 alone. 80 vehicles were destroyed in a park north of Hue; 56 armoured cars near Da Nang; 42 near Dong Du; 29 in a base of the U.S. Army Engineers Regiment 11, 50km southeast of Bien Hoa; near Saigon, on May 8, 74 tanks and armoured ambulances were destroyed or destroyed in an attack on a park 18km northwest of the town, and four days later, 50 others and 10 ordinance pieces were destroyed just from Tan Son Nhut. The enemy also suffered heavy losses in many ambushes: over 100 vehicles were destroyed or burnt in three days on May 6 and 8, respectively southeast of Can Tho (Mekong Delta), near Cai Chi, northwest of Saigon and south of

Kontum (Western High Plateaus).

The P.L.A.F. also pounded warships. On May 3, a 10,000-ton cargo boat was set afire between Saigon and the sea; on May 6, 4 vessels were sunk on the Perfume River below Huu Tiep; on May 8, 2 ships were sunk to the bottom and 2 others burnt northeast of Ben Tre town in a branch of the Mekong River; the following day, a 10,000-ton ship was damaged below Saigon; on May 11, near Ca Mau, the southernmost tip of South Viet Nam, 3 vessels were sunk.

After destroying bridges and sabotaging miles of road, chiefly around Saigon and in the Mekong Delta, the P.L.A.F. and civilians have virtually cut off vital centres of the economy and thus been unable to put up a concerted resistance even in narrow sectors.

Finally, the depots and logistic bases of the enemy have always been selected targets of the P.L.A.F. The big one, "Binh Lang," northeast of Saigon, which had been subjected to many assaults, was gutted for hours by big fire. Many fuel tanks near Ben Tre were also set afire after a many days' pounding by P.L.A.F. artillery. The May 14 shelling of Dong Ha turned this town into a big configuration visible in the sky within a 30 km radius.

ENGAGEMENT IN SAIGON

The battle in Saigon took pride of place in last week's military operations.

Three U.S. brigades hurriedly dispatched from Saigon to reinforce the depleted puppet army suffered heavy losses. Street fighting went on May 13 and 14 in many downtown quarters, notably the Yen Phu bridge, south of the city. Phu Yen race-course (now a military base of puppet troops) and Tan Thoi Hieng sector, north of Tan Son Nhut airport, saw two major puppet battalions were put out of action on May 10 and 11. The military and administrative offices located in

"fashionable" districts continue to be harassed by P.L.A.F. artillery on May 13.

Northwest of Saigon on May 13, a U.S. company and a puppet company were put out of action by the P.L.A.F. who seized the signal centre at Ba Den near Tay Ninh town.

At 85 km southwest of Da

Nang, near the Viet Nam—Laos frontier, on May 12, the P.L.A.F. forced the enemy to evacuate by air the "special forces" camp at Da Nho. In 2 days, the enemy had a command post, a communications post, 16 aircraft including 14 freighters downed and an important quantity of war materials seized by the P.L.A.F.

SAIGON—CHOLON—GIA DINH ALLIANCE CONVENES MEETING

A meeting of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces in Saigon—Cholon was convened on May 5. The meeting studied the National Salvation Manifesto of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, its position and program of action, and completely agreed with its sensible attitude towards the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

Through discussions and changes of views, the meeting elected the Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh Committee of Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, whose members fully represented the various patriotic, democratic and peace forces in the region.

The emergency appeal unanimously passed on in population Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh to actively join the Alliance or act in co-operation with it in order to accomplish a broader further the united front against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

The appeal was signed on behalf of the Alliance in Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh area by its Chairman—Professor Le Van Giap—and its Secretary-General—Ho Huu Nhat, ex-President of the Students' Union.

The meeting sent a message to the Central Committee of the V.N.A.N.D.P.F. expressing its confidence in the latter's policies and its determination to do its best to help achieve the sacred objectives expounded in the V.N.A.N.D.P.F. Manifesto.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL DRIVE

ACCORDING to still incomplete figures released by *Giai Phong Press Agency*, in 75 days of uprisings (from January 31 to April 15, 1968) a total count of over 3 million urban and rural people, armed with rudimentary weapons, co-ordinated their action with the P.L.A.F. attacks on the enemy. They killed or hunted down, criss-crossed the country, captured administration in rural districts and hamlets... They assaulted the "pacification" teams, wiped

them out or drove them from their assignment areas, thus foiling the "pacification" plan of the U.S. and its lackeys. Over 100 villages and 600 hamlets with 1,600,000 inhabitants were liberated. Popular power has been set up in the liberated areas of Ca Mau province and in most of the liberated zones of the provinces of My Tho, Kien Phong, Ben Tre, Lam An, Quang Ngai, Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Tri, etc. Even in Saigon and Hue, the people have got control

of many streets and town districts and carried out armed propaganda in areas still held by the enemy.

The people contributed to the task of enemy communication lines and joined "people's popular forces" carried supplies, evacuated the wounded and helped the armed forces. The popular masses—a strong political force were also very active in taking up arms, soldiers into surrendering their posts and crossing over with their kits to the side of the revolution.



G.I.'s scrambling for seats in evacuation planes at Khe Sanh